

# Concord

NORTH CAROLINA

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## ***CITY CIRCULAR***

FALL 2010



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- 2010-'11 Fall Leaf Collection
- Historic Trees on Union Street
- B-17 Open House Oct. 22-24
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- News & Updates





**David W. Phillips**  
District 1  
Mayor Pro-Tem



**James E. Ramseur**  
District 2



**Ella Mae Small**  
District 3



**Alfred M. Brown, Jr.**  
District 4



**W. Lamar Barrier**  
District 5



**Hector H. Henry II**  
District 6



**John A. Sweat, Jr.**  
District 7

The Concord City Circular is produced quarterly by the City Public Information Office to provide Concord citizens with information about current activities of the City of Concord. It contains items that will help make it easier for you to do business with the City. Your comments and questions are welcomed. Please send them to Concord City Circular, P.O. Box 308, Concord, NC 28026 or call 704-920-5204 or e-mail [franzese@ci.concord.nc.us](mailto:franzese@ci.concord.nc.us).

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## 2010-2011 Leaf Collection Dates Announced

### CITY OF CONCORD SOLID WASTE SERVICES

Customer Care Center  
704-920-5555  
Monday - Friday  
7 a.m. - 6 p.m.

P.O. Box 308  
Concord, NC 28026

[www.ci.concord.nc.us](http://www.ci.concord.nc.us)

Remember: Once the leaf crew passes your house, it's too late to start raking!

#### Second Chance Program Again Available

You are required to begin bagging all loose leaves placed at the curb after the leaf crew works your street during the third collection cycle. The Second Chance Program is for anyone who missed the last collection and is willing to pay rather than to bag their leaves and avoid the Code Enforcement penalties. For a fee of \$75, the City will schedule a special loose-leaf collection weekdays between Jan. 26 and Feb. 15. Call 704-920-5555 to schedule your Second Chance collection.



### If your garbage collection day is:

**MONDAY**, your leaves will be collected:

*November 8-11, December 13-17, January 20-25*

**TUESDAY**, your leaves will be collected:

*November 2-5, December 6-10, January 13-19*

**WEDNESDAY**, your leaves will be collected:

*October 27-November 1, November 29-December 3, January 7-12*

**THURSDAY**, your leaves will be collected:

*October 21-26, November 19-24, January 3-6*

**FRIDAY**, your leaves will be collected:

*October 15-20, November 12-18, December 28-31*



- Place loose leaves at curbside by 7 a.m. the **FIRST** day your collection is scheduled so crews can remain on schedule.

- Collection crews are unable to return if you place leaves at the curb after they have worked your street.

- Leaves must be free of tree/shrub limbs or foreign objects and kept away from storm drains, mail boxes, and parked cars.

- Bagged leaves are collected **weekly** on your regular garbage collection day; consider bagging your leaves if you can't wait for the once per month loose leaf schedule.

- Bagged leaves must be contained in untied clear plastic or bio-degradable paper bags weighing less than 35 pounds each.

The City will collect your Christmas trees. Please leave the trees at the curb with your regular household garbage. Remove all stands, lights, and ornaments.

\*\*No loose leaf collection is scheduled on City-observed holidays including Thanksgiving (November 25-26), Christmas (December 24 & 27), and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (January 17, 2011).

This schedule is subject to change due to weather delays and equipment breakdown. Contact the Customer Care Center or check our website for updates.

*Receive timely notifications by telephone, cell phone, and e-mail: Sign up now for Connect-CTY! Check the City website for more information.*

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## From the Mayor

J. Scott Padgett



# Special People, Great Community

When I talk to Concord's citizens and visitors about why our city is so great, the hard-to-define phrase "good quality of life" is often mentioned. Things like quality schools, low taxes and a moderate climate are certainly important; however, I hope you would agree with me that the people here are what make our community so special. In this article I would like to highlight some exceptional people and organizations that I believe make our quality of life better.

Two local community leaders have written books that can have great value to their readers. Robert Mathis, Concord's first African-American member of City Council, recounts his life of more than seven decades in our community in his book, entitled, *I Made the Best of It*. He relates the many changes in Concord and the world to his own life. As a veteran, father, grandfather, church leader, community leader and elected official, Robert has maintained a healthy balance and positive attitude. He learned that by helping others be their best, he became a better man himself. His life has not been easy but he says, "I made the best of it, that is success in itself." Thanks, Robert, for all you have done — you made a positive difference to all who have known

you, and to future generations. If you would like to purchase Robert's book, it is available at Border's bookstore at Carolina Mall.

Local entrepreneur and long-time citizen, Bernard Davis Jr., has a new book, entitled, *Portraits of the African-American Experience in Concord-Cabarrus, North Carolina 1866-2008*. A published author of two books of poetry, Bernard is a man of great talent who has impacted many people in a positive way. He used his artistic skills as director of Monumental Freedom Theater to guide youth groups in learning the finer points of artistic expression. One of his greatest accomplishments is the founding of the Cabarrus County Museum of Fine Art and African-American History.

Bernard's book represents 12 years of thoughtful research. The result is a candid look at history with a local emphasis. While we are busy with our daily lives, we should take time to reflect on the past. There are parts of our history that we would probably like to forget, but that would be foolish. Bernard has used rare photographs and the written word to explain an important segment of Concord's past. To buy a copy of his book, email him at [aries940@yahoo.com](mailto:aries940@yahoo.com).

I appreciate Robert and Bernard

using their talent and experiences to add to our quality of life.

The Concord Rotary Club has stepped up in a big way to add handicap-accessible playground equipment at J.W. McGee Park. They worked in cooperation with the Concord Parks & Recreation Department and the Concord City Council to build something that will enhance our community's quality of life for a long time.

Before we know it, the seasons

continued on page 7

**Save the Date!**

Come downtown  
on Friday, November 19,  
for an evening of fun and festivities:

**Annual  
Christmas Tree Lighting  
and Fireworks**

presented by




Cabarrus Bank & Trust Company  
*Helping You Grow*

Carolinus Medical Center  
NorthEast

Event schedule:

5:30: Children's activities,  
trolley and carriage rides;  
6:00: Family entertainment;  
6:30: Tree lighting;  
7:30: Fireworks

Also join us for the Art Walk

**ARTS**  
6:00 - 9:00



## Manager's Notes

Brian Hiatt, Concord City Manager



# Recognition of Departmental Achievements

Over the past 12 months, various City departments have been recognized by outside organizations for their achievements. While the most important measurement is meeting the expectations of our customers in delivering services, these awards do help us highlight good work, as they are based on the evaluation of those outside our organization.

The most recent recognitions came from ElectriCities, a membership organization that includes public power communities in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia. ElectriCities recognized the City of Concord with **six Public Power Awards of Excellence**, and the Hometown Hero Award.

Concord received recognition for excellence in the following categories: Communications, Customer Service, Energy Efficiency Grassroots Building, Key Accounts and Training.

These categories represent efforts of more than 100 coworkers in several departments who work together to deliver electric service to customers.

The **Hometown Hero Award** was something special, as it recognized Officer Mike Drake of the Concord Police Department. Hometown Hero awards are presented annually to

municipal employees who have made an outstanding effort to save a life in their community.

Officer Drake is one of four 2010 Hometown Heroes. He was the first responder to a house fire, and entered the burning structure to pull out a man who was lying on the floor and looking for his dog, thus saving his life. Officer Drake has been recognized by his City of Concord coworkers with a STAR nomination, he was a quarterly SHINING STAR winner and the second annual SUPER STAR award winner. These awards are a part of the City's ongoing efforts to emphasize excellent customer service and to recognize coworkers who go above and beyond.

These ElectriCities awards followed national recognition for the Concord Electric Department. For the second time, the City of Concord is one of 94 of the nation's more than 2,000 public power utilities to earn **Reliable Public Power Provider (RP3®) recognition** from the American Public Power Association for providing consumers with the highest degree of reliable and safe electric service. The designation will remain for two years.

The Cabarrus County Board of Education recently acknowledged the City's support through the

various contributions made by its departments. From the **Civic Education Program** targeting third-graders, to the City's **Youth Council**, to programs providing in-kind service by individual departments, the Board noted its appreciation at its August meeting with the presentation of a plaque of appreciation.

Another honor was bestowed recently on our Fleet Services Department. *Government Fleet Magazine* has recognized the City of Concord's Fleet Services Department as the 18th best public sector fleet operation in North America in its **100 Best Fleets award** announcement in June. Concord was the only North Carolina fleet to make the top 20.

The 100 Best Fleets award program recognizes and rewards peak-performing public sector fleet operations in North America. The program also identifies and encourages ever-increasing levels of performance improvement within the fleet industry.

Fleet Services is an internal department of the City of Concord, responsible for overseeing the fueling and servicing of more than 1,000 vehicles and pieces of equipment. The department provides quality and timely maintenance for the City fleet while



minimizing costs. The 13 staff members are also responsible for the acquisition and disposal of fleet assets, fuel operations and air quality initiatives in conjunction with regional partners. This national award recognized the great job these coworkers do in saving money and keeping City equipment in top running order. Not only are they among the nation's best at maintaining municipal equipment, this group is also a leader in improving the environment and reducing emissions by purchasing hybrids, transitioning to bio-diesel and developing a no-idling policy.

The Concord Fire and Life Safety Department was recognized in 2010 by **Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR)**. ESGR recognizes employers who have been supportive of National Guardsmen and Reservists who are activated. The award is based on nominations from members of the National Guard or various Reserve units. ESGR is a Department of Defense volunteer organization with committees in each state and six protectorates of the United States. Its goal is to gain and maintain support from all public and private employers for the men and women of the National Guard and Reserve by working with America's employers who share their employees with the nation to ensure national security.

As we reported earlier this year, the City's 2009 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) has been awarded a **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting** by the Government Finance Officers Association. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of

recognition and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government body and its management. The Finance Department has received this award for 21 consecutive years.

The Government Finance Officers Association also awarded the City's FY 2009-'10 budget the **Distinguished Budget Presentation Award** with Special Performance Measurement Recognition. This national award is the highest award in government budgeting, recognizing those cities that have prepared exemplary budgets that serve as a policy document, financial plan, operations guide and a communications device. Only 4.25 percent of North Carolina municipalities received this award, and only 1.87 percent received it nationally. Receipt of the award for the FY 2009-'10 budget marks the ninth consecutive year the City has been awarded this recognition.

The Business and Neighborhood Services Department received **several recognitions associated with its development of the Concord Downtown Master Plan**. These included awards from the North Carolina Main Street Center, the 2009 Marvin Collins Outstanding Planning Award from the North Carolina Chapter — American Planning Association and an award from the International Economic Development Council.

The City has also been recognized for its participation in the **Green Challenge program** sponsored by the North Carolina League of Municipalities (NCLM). This is a program for member cities and towns that honors specific activities that a city or town has undertaken to protect the environment, save

energy and preserve natural resources.

In late August, the Housing Department won the **Human Service Award** at the Carolinas Council for Affordable Housing Annual Conference. The award recognized Concord from all small Housing Authorities in both Carolinas for its "Youth Life Skills" program held at the Neighborhood Networks Technology Center.

While not as visible as some of these other achievements, the City is just as proud of the 25 City of Concord departments and divisions that received **safety awards from the N.C. Department of Labor** in 2010 for their work in accident prevention. Many of the City's functions are labor intensive, as services are provided directly to residences and businesses and to support the infrastructure critical to our community. It is important that our coworkers adopt sound work practices so that our most valuable resources are safe, and to limit the direct and indirect costs of lost productivity.

Some municipal functions, such as public safety, are very visible while others often go unnoticed unless something goes wrong. For example, most residents expect someone to pick up their garbage, recycling and yard waste when they put it out and do not think about the service unless it is missed or if the collection does not meet expectations. Still others, such as fleet management, are support services that most do not see at all. The City has departments committed to customer service regardless if they receive outside recognition or not; however, when they do, it is important that we acknowledge a job well done. □

## Accessibility

# Everyone Plays at McGee Park



On Wednesday, June 30, the Concord Rotary Club joined City of Concord elected officials and staff at McGee Park to break ground on the new “Everyone Plays” playground, fully accessible to the disabled. The Rotary Club raised nearly \$110,000 to build the playground that will be accessible to children in wheelchairs, and include areas specifically for children with visual and hearing impairments.

Rotarian and Concord Mayor Scott Padgett remarked that the playground project is likely the largest donation, ever, from a



civics club to the city. “As mayor and a member of this club, I would say this is one of the proudest moments I can remember,” Padgett said. “In this economy, there are not a lot of groundbreaking. For this club to step up, and with the generosity of the club members, it’s a big shot in

the arm for the city.”

Construction is scheduled to be complete in late September. The ribbon-cutting is planned for Saturday, October 2, with a weather-delay date of October 9. □





will change and it will be time for Concord's annual Christmas Tree Lighting/Fireworks Display and the Cabarrus Arts Council's Art Walk. Go ahead and put November 19 on your calendar and plan to join us downtown for this great event. School groups and local artists will perform, and activities for children will be available.

The Tree Lighting is a beautiful kick-off to the Christmas season, and it's followed by a holiday fireworks display. This event is sponsored by Cabarrus Bank & Trust and Carolinas Medical Center-NorthEast. We thank Pat Horton, CEO of Cabarrus Bank, and Phyllis Wingate-Jones, president of CMC-NE, for their sponsorship to make this event possible! These individuals and organizations have made a great contribution to our quality of life.

The Tree Lighting is always the night before the Concord Christmas Parade, which has been organized by John Howard and the Cabarrus Events Association volunteers since 2001. I know we all are looking forward to the parade on November 20. Thank you, John and volunteers, for all you do for our community. □

## Partnership Brings Recycling Program to Local Schools

The Cabarrus Sustainability Council, Cabarrus County Schools, Kannapolis City Schools, the cities of Concord and Kannapolis, and Cabarrus County have partnered to provide recycling services to local schools.



The effort, organized by the Sustainability Council, provides the resources for schools to recycle paper, aluminum, plastic and cardboard. Prior to the program, each school had a varying level of recycling activity.

Recycling bins and weekly pick-ups are being provided jointly by the local governments under the shared identity, "School Recycling Partnership."

For more information about the Sustainability Council, contact Samantha Moose at 704-782-4000 or at [smoose@cabarrus.biz](mailto:smoose@cabarrus.biz). □



## News & Updates

### Scheduled Bulk Item Collection Begins January 1, 2011

Effective January 1, 2011, the City of Concord will require that all residents call our Customer CARE Center (704-920-5555) to schedule the curbside collection of bulk metal, old appliances and used tires. Although the City of Concord has encouraged residents to schedule the collection of these items for some time, scheduling becomes mandatory in 2011. Items left at the curb and not scheduled for pick-up could lead to code enforcement penalties for property owners.

Currently, two trucks serve

Concord citizens in collecting metal and tires. "By requiring citizens to schedule the collection of appliances, metal and tires, we can eliminate the need for one of our two trucks. The retirement of one coworker during this year will allow us to eliminate his position, consolidate our operations and move the truck into reserve status," said Allen Scott, director of solid waste services. "With the cooperation of our citizens, this simple change will save the City 30,000 miles of driving, 3,000



gallons of diesel fuel and approximately \$55,000 annually."

Please check the Solid Waste page on the City's Web site ([www.ci.concord.nc.us](http://www.ci.concord.nc.us)) regularly for updates on any changes in the items you can recycle, place at the curb for collection, or any advanced preparation requirements. □



# City of Concord Names Three to Key Positions

Pate



Waller



Weslowski



**B**ob Pate has been named electric systems director, where he will direct and oversee the operation and maintenance of the city's electric system. Bob has 26 years with the City of Concord and 21 of them have been in various positions in the Electric Department. Bob previously coordinated the overhead line construction and tree crews. He is lifelong resident of Cabarrus County, and his family includes his wife, Patricia, and his daughter, Kennedy.

**Julie Waller** has been named safety, health and risk manager,

where she will oversee the City's safety and worker's compensation programs; work with our general liability, property and other insurances; and serve as the City's ADA coordinator. Julie has six years of applicable municipal experience working with the Town of Morrisville and the Town of Chapel Hill, and more than ten years of experience before that in the private sector in safety, risk management, and human resources. Julie is relocating from Burlington, NC, with husband, Barry, and sons, Joel and Noah.

**Lawrence J. "L.J." Weslowski Jr.** has been selected the first transit manager for the Concord-Kannapolis transit system known as Rider. He brings more than 15 years experience in transit planning, operations and management, and most recently served as a general manager for Veolia Transportation. He received both his undergraduate and masters degrees from the University of Massachusetts. L.J. and his wife are residents of Cabarrus County and are active in the community. □

## 13th Annual Mayor's Golf Tournament to Benefit Youth Programs: October 1

**T**he 13th annual Mayor's Golf Tournament will be held on Friday, October 1, 2010, at Rocky River Golf Club. Proceeds from the tournament benefit youth programs in our community, and the deadline to enter is September 24, 2010. Please visit [www.rockyrivergolf.com](http://www.rockyrivergolf.com) for more information. □







# Providing Value to Customers: Reasonable Fees in Development Services

A common statement from those acquiring development permits is that the fees are too high and that other municipalities are cheaper. The City of Concord takes this perception seriously. In 2009, the Development Services Department conducted an analysis of the fees associated with the plan review and permitting processes. The goal was to ensure that the fees charged do not exceed the costs associated with administering the service, and to additionally ensure that these costs are not in any way unwarranted.

During this study, all departments and staff associated with these processes were interviewed in order to collect an accurate overview of the time and staff associated with each of the

procedures. Additionally, the City collected data from nearby municipalities as well as others that were more distant, but had a similar population.

It is difficult to make comparisons with other municipalities because of the differences in organization and fee administration; however, the study found that Concord's development fees are consistent with, and in some cases a better value than, other municipalities. In reviewing the assessment of fees, the study showed that following an application through the entire process from start to finish, other municipalities may charge several fees that amount to more money than the one up-front fee charged by the City of Concord.

Development Services staff credits its low costs to the "one-stop shop" Development Services Center that eliminates the time and expense of multiple submittals.

The City of Concord and the Development Services Department are committed to continuous improvement and providing the best customer service. Therefore, it is not only an honor to serve our citizens and customers, but also a great pleasure knowing that our service to the community is providing development permits at wholesale costs to you!

For more information about Development Services, please contact Margaret Pearson, director, at 704-920-5151 or [pearson@ci.concord.nc.us](mailto:pearson@ci.concord.nc.us). □



## Online Bill Payment



You can access your utility bill account information as well as pay your utility and tax bills by Internet and telephone. Visit our Web site at [www.ci.concord.nc.us](http://www.ci.concord.nc.us) and click on the Pay Your Utility Bill link. If you would like to pay your bill by phone, call our Customer Care Center at 704-920-5555. Both systems are quick and easy to use as long as you have a credit card. Both systems are also secure and confidential. □

## HAVE A QUESTION?

Visit the City of Concord's Web site at [www.ci.concord.nc.us](http://www.ci.concord.nc.us) or call 704-920-5555.



# Taking Care of Our Historic Trees on Union Street

Over the past five years, the City has engaged the services of a professional arborist to conduct assessments of the trees growing in the planting strips along North Union Street. The arborist has made a series of preservation recommendations, including extensive tree feeding, insect treatments, and pruning and cabling work intended to stabilize the trees. Unfortunately, there are eight trees that have not responded to any of the preservation efforts, and have reached a point where they pose a threat to cars, homes and pedestrians. There is no choice in the matter: cutting these trees down is necessary to protect property and public safety.

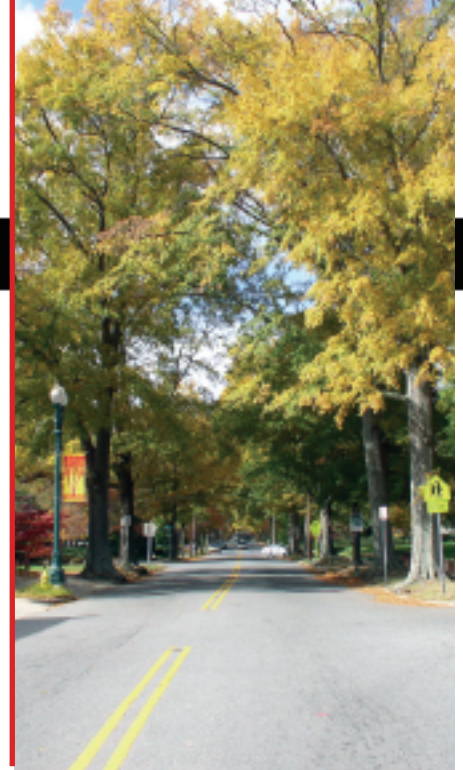
The major problem facing these trees and all of the others: The planting strip is not large enough to support the growth of trees this large. Each one of these trees has multiple problems; even though some of them look like nice, full trees, they have deteriorated internally and do not have enough foliage to support the tree anymore. So, in effect, the trees are dying slowly.

Because the City is very concerned about preserving the tree canopy over North Union

Street, staff met with the homeowners of Historic Union Street last November and proposed that the City purchase North American elm trees to replace the trees that have to be cut.

We cannot plant these trees back in the planting strip and expect them to really be able to do well, so the Historic Union Street neighborhood group is working on securing permission to plant these trees in the yards of the residents, at locations selected by the arborist. The City will supply the tree, and the neighborhood group will be responsible for hiring a nursery to plant and maintain these trees for one year.

Originally, all of the North Union trees were elm trees. Then we lost those elm trees in the big Dutch elm disease outbreak, sometime around the turn of the last century. These new trees are resistant to the Dutch elm disease, and to elm blight. We will plant Cabarrus County native stock white dogwood trees in the planting strip, as close to the removed tree locations as practical. Finally, we will remove a few crepe myrtles that were planted in the planting strip after Hurricane Hugo that have not done well.



Staff has met both individually with each homeowner and with the neighborhood group to discuss the plans. In addition, the City submitted the project to the Historic Preservation Commission, and received a certificate of appropriateness. Work is proceeding as follows:

- Cutting on seven trees occurred from July 6-14. Crews ground the stumps, removed the debris and filled in the holes with dirt.
- An additional tree, which originally responded to treatments, has failed in the recent dry spell and will be removed.
- The new North American elms and dogwoods will be planted in October.

If you have any questions about this process, please contact David Ratchford, buildings and grounds director, at 704-920-5380 or at [ratchford@ci.concord.nc.us](mailto:ratchford@ci.concord.nc.us). □





## Community

# B-17 Crew Members to Be Honored at Open House October 22-24



The Charlotte EAA Chapter 309 is offering historic flight experiences in its beautifully

restored B-17 Flying Fortress "Aluminum Overcast."

This aircraft is an example of the American heavy bomber that helped turn the tide of battle in World War II. The tour stop will be at Concord Regional Airport October 22-24, 2010, as the featured attraction of the open house with WWII aircraft static displays. Fly a mission back in time and feel the might of this

magnificent aircraft, just as those brave young men did more than 50 years ago. The organization is looking for B-17 crew members to be honored at a dinner on October 23 and be provided a free ride on the B-17. Please email Susan Green at [greens@ci.concord.nc.us](mailto:greens@ci.concord.nc.us) or call 704-920-5915 for more information. □

## Concord Scenes on the Big Screen

Various locations around the city will be seen in two upcoming films. *A Box for Rob*, by Moving Box Entertainment in association with Uptone Pictures, will be an action-thriller set in Concord. For more information, visit [aboxforrob.com](http://aboxforrob.com) or find their page on Facebook. Additionally, *Insecurity* was filmed in Concord and elsewhere in the region. It is a mystery-thriller by Cascade Pictures. For more information, visit [witnessinsecurity.com](http://witnessinsecurity.com). □



All images courtesy of "A Box for Rob" set photographer, Jerry Keys





P.O. Box 308  
Concord, NC 28026

[www.ci.concord.nc.us](http://www.ci.concord.nc.us)

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## Family Fun

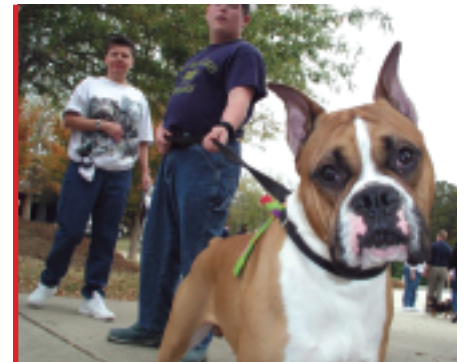
# Dogs' Day Out at Les Myers Park: October 23

**H**ey, dogs, bring your owner to Les Myers Park on Saturday, October 23, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and enjoy the festivities planned for you! Les Myers Park is located at 338 Lawndale Ave SW.

Play off-leash in the Doggie Fun Zone on the ballfield for as long as you like. Then enter the talent, obedience and costume contests where your owner can vie to win goodies for you!

You and your owner can visit with sponsoring veterinarians to ask questions and get current medical information. Also, visit the vendors selling pet products and non-profits distributing information about their rescue efforts.

Concord Youth Council will sell hot dogs, drinks and refreshments. They will also have a craft booth for the younger pet owners. See you there! □



### Contest Schedule:

11:45:  
Obedience Contest

12:15:  
Talent Contest

1:15:  
Costume Contest

*Presented by: Foster Animal Hospital, PA; Cabarrus Animal Hospital, PA;  
South Ridge Veterinarian Hospital; Animal Care Clinic; Swiftdogs Inc.;  
Concord Parkway Animal Hospital*